

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT L 00859 161454Z

53

ACTION IO-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4827

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0859

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA PFOR CB MP

SUBJECT: KHMER REPRESENTATION AT 29TH UNGA AND UNESCO 18TH GENERAL
CONFERENCE

REF: (A) PORT LOUIS 0792; (B) STATE 210886; (C) STATE 220123;

(D) STATE 221035; (E) STATE 213164

1. TODAY I AGAIN WENT OVER THIS ISSUE POINT BY POINT WITH PRIME
MINISTER RAMGOOLAM, REITERATING SERIOUSNESS OF SECRETARY'S CONCERN
THAT SEATING OF GRUNK WOULD BE HARMFUL AND DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR
UN STRUCTURE, MAKE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA MUCH MORE
DIFFICULT AND THUS PROLONG CAMBODIAN CONFLICT. I PROVIDED HIM WITH
TEXTS OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION (WITH LIST OF ASIAN SPONSORS) AND
COMMENTS BY INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER (REF E).

2. RAMGOOLAM POLITELY BUT FIRMLY REFUSED TO BUDGE,
SAYING THAT MUCH AS HE WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMMODATE USG AND SECRETARY
HIMSELF, HE (RAM) CONSIDERED IT IMPOSSIBLE TO BACK AWAY FROM HIS
LONG-STANDING RECOGNITION OF GRUNK AND RENEGE ON HIS COMMITMENT TO
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PAGE 02 PORT L 00859 161454Z

NON-ALIGNED POLICY IN OAU CONTEXT. HE REFERRED TO EFFECTIVENESS

OF ENERGETIC GRUNK DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN AMONG NON-ALIGNED AND SAID ONLY THING HE FELT ABLE TO DO WAS TO SUCCESSFULLY DISCOURAGE GRUNK ROVING AMBASSADOR FROM VISITING MAURITIUS RECENTLY. RAMGOOLAM ADDED HE HAD ONCE STUCK HIS NECK OUT BY SUPPORTING US ON CHINESE REPRESENTATION ISSUE AND WAS PLAYED BY NON-ALIGNED FOR OPPOSING CPR. HE SAID HE DOES NOT WANT TO GO THROUGH THAT EXPERIENCE AGAIN ESPECIALLY WHEN IT LOOKS AS THOUGH GRUNK WILL GET MAJORITY SUPPORT AT THIS UNGA. I REPLIED THAT THESE WERE NOT REALLY PARALLEL CASES AND REPEATED OUR DETERMINATION TO OPPOSE SEATING OF GRUNK.

3. I THEN RAISED SUBJECT OF KHMER CREDENTIALS AT UNESCO CONFERENCE URGING THAT GOM DELEGATION BE INSTRUCTED AT LEAST NOT TO SUPPORT ANY CHALLENGE TO GKR'S CREDENTIALS THERE BEFORE QUESTION IS CONSIDERED IN UNGA. RAMGOOLAM REPLIED THAT THERE WERE SOME PRECEDENTS FOR SUCH A CHANGE IN UNESCO, BUT HE WOULD "SEE WHAT HE COULD DO" ABOUT HIS DELEGATION'S POSITION AT UNESCO CONFERENCE.

4. THIS IS MIGHTY COLD COMFORT BUT IT IS LIKE TRYING TO SQUEEZE BLOOD OUT OF A TURNIP WHEN RAMGOOLAM FEELS SO DEEPLY COMMITTED TO NON-ALIGNED CLUB ON THIS ISSUE.
MANHARD

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